

REMARKS

This application has been carefully revised in light of the Examiner's Final Office Action dated August 21, 2003. Reconsideration and full allowance are respectfully requested.

5 **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102:**

Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 4,456,092 (Kubozua).

Claim 33 as presented, includes the step of using fastening means to define a controllable air gap between at least portions of the perimeter of an acoustic blanket without any connecting support structure between the fastening means. As indicated in the Office Action, this step is not taught
10 or suggested in the prior art and therefore Claim 33 is allowable and is in condition for allowance.

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 4,456,092 (McCutcheon). Claim 34 is canceled from the application.

15 **Conclusion:**

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, Examiner Warren is invited to contact the undersigned.



Respectfully submitted,

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